

670, a
On Board the Continental Ship of War
the Boston, Nantasket Road, April 24th 1777

Sir

Understanding by one or two of our Brother Officers,
that there is a dispute arisen between Yourself & the Hon^{ble}
Thomas Cushing Esq, Namely whether ourselves & Men on board
this Ship shall be paid in full the wages for our past Services
and one Months advance Wages according to a Resolve of the
Hon^{ble} Continental Congress. — We therefore beg leave
to lay before you the Manner of our past living on Board this
Ship under your Command, also what we expect to receive
before we sail. — With pleasure Sir, we appeal to Yourself
whether each one of us has not cheerfully obeyed your orders
and done our Duty in our several Stations when Comman-
ded, and with patience waited for the Ships sailing on a Cruise
against our Enemies, hope has ever been our Support, still de-
termined to serve our Country, Altho' meeting with every thing
that has been discouraging willing however to undergo any thing
^{rather} than give you uneasiness on our Accounts we have not complained,
but find patience must fail when no prospect is left to support
it, therefore beg leave to acquaint you, that some of us has
taken the Liberty to make application to the Hon^{ble} Mr Cushing
acquainting him that our support has been inadequate to our
Services, we complained that we had no small Stores on board
this Ship, and sometimes not even fresh Provisions, when within
half a cables length of the Wharf, his Answer was that Congress
allowed nothing more, neither Chocolate Coffee or Sugar, the
stinking New England Rum which has been furnished the Ship.

is little better than Grogg, the Molasses so sour that even the Swine refuse it, Salt Provisions for near a month together while laying in a plentiful Country, is what we did not expect to be reduced to. —

Now, Sir, looking on you as our friend and Commander firmly bent to risque our lives with yours at all Hazards, we must beg you to hear and redress our Grievances, For the first place, Sir, we expect to be paid in full our Wages and accounts before we sail, and ^{one} months advance Wages according to a resolve of Congress, so as to enable us to leave ^{where-}with to support our Families in our Absence. — and pay a few Debts contracted since belonging to the Service. —

In the second place, we shall be glad to know whether we are allowed Rations according to our Ranks, if we are, we shall lay in our small Stores, if we are not, and upon equal ~~R~~ footing with the Land Officers, of Equal Ranks, we expect to be found while belonging to this Ship, West India Rum, Sugar, Coffee Chocolate &c or forced to quit the ^{Sea} Service.

Now Sir, we earnestly beg you to settle this matter, you being sensible some of us have been to Boston, several days for that purpose, Being resolved not to sail unless better paid & supported, at same time we cheerfully wait your Answer and Commands and are, Sir, with respect. Your Most humble Ser.

John Brown
Simon Grogg
Rev^d. Welch
Richard Palmer
Lawrence Furlong
Robert McNeill
John Harris

To

Hector McNeill Esq.

A True Copy ~~Attested~~ of the Original produced to me by doct. Lynn
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A

Copy of the officers
Letter from Nantasket
April 24 1797

To

Hector M. Neill Esq.

Commander of the Ship
Boston,

From

Boston

Ms. A. 9. 2. 1. 5

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